



MEDIA RELEASE

Local Butchers Arrested on Drug Charges

SANTA BARBARA, CA – March 28, 2012

Within the last year the Santa Barbara Police Department Narcotics Unit began investigating a report of a subject selling narcotics out of the Chapala Market located at 605 North Milpas Street and adjacent to Santa Barbara Junior High School. The person involved in the sale of narcotics was identified as Isidro Diaz Vasquez, age 49, who was employed at the market as a butcher. Over the course of the investigation it was learned that Vasquez was selling both methamphetamine and cocaine.

SBPD Narcotics Detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Vasquez for the sale of methamphetamine. Additionally, search warrants were obtained for Vasquez's home at 633 Casabella Court in Santa Paula, his vehicles, and the Chapala Market. On March 27, 2012 SBPD Detectives and Canine Officers executed the arrest and search warrants in this case.

Vasquez was stopped by detectives in the County of Santa Barbara while he was driving to work. Vasquez was in possession of 14 packages of methamphetamine (3.8 grams) and 10 packages of cocaine (3.5 grams) at the time of his arrest. Inside of Vasquez's home detectives located 12.7 grams of cocaine, other items related to the sale of narcotics, a 9mm handgun, and a .22 caliber rifle. During the search of the Chapala Market detectives located a gram scale used to weigh narcotics. Additionally, they arrested another butcher, Artemio Cazares Ortega, age 29, for an unrelated outstanding arrest warrant and for being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Vasquez admitted to selling drugs from Chapala Market during school time hours. He further acknowledged that he had been accepting property, sometimes stolen property, in exchange for drugs. Inside of Vasquez's home and vehicle were 27 cell phones, 18 iPods, and 4 laptop computers. Investigation into the nature of these items is continuing.

At this time the investigation does not indicate that Vasquez sold drugs to Santa Barbara Junior High students, nor does it indicate that his employer was involved. The street value of the narcotics found in Vasquez's possession is approximately \$1,000.00.

Vasquez was booked at Santa Barbara County Jail for the following felonies: possession of cocaine for sale, transportation of cocaine, possession of methamphetamine for sale, and transportation of methamphetamine. Bail was set at \$30,000.00.

Ortega was booked at County Jail for the misdemeanor of being under the influence of a controlled substance with a bail of \$2,500.00. Additionally, he was booked on his unrelated \$10,000.00 misdemeanor warrant, which was for DUI.



Vasquez, Isidro Diaz



Ortega, Artemio Cazares

Photos provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department.

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